

Remarks/Arguments:

Upon entry of the instant amendment, claims 1-19 are pending. Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 10, 11, 13, 14, 17 and 18 have been amended to more particularly point out the invention.

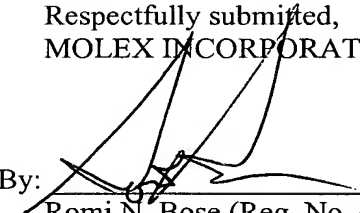
Claims 1-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee (U.S. Patent No. 6,555,851) ("Lee") and further in view of Fleenor et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,550,97) (Fleenor).

It is respectfully submitted that there are aspects of the instant invention that are not taught, suggest or implied by Lee and Fleenor either singularly or in combination. In particular, Applicants' invention relates to an optical connector that can be reliably tuned using **rotational** adjustment. Accordingly, claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, "a key ring rotatably mounted about the ferrule holder and fixable on the ferrule holder at selected positions of rotational adjustment". Claims 7 and 13 have been similarly amended.

In contrast, the ferrule holder of Fleenor **cannot** be rotationally adjusted. Fleenor shows the keying feature of the optical connector formed directly on the ferrule holder of the plug housing, which does not allow any rotational tuning of the connector system. In fact, Fleenor actually teaches away from rotational adjustment by describing a connector having **radial float** for tuning purposes (see column 8 lines 36-37). Incorporating structure shown in Fleenor into Applicants' invention would defeat the purpose of Applicants' invention.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application is in condition for allowance, which allowance is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,
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